

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 47

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 117

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 47—Relative to commending Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

[Filed with Secretary of State August 15, 2002.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 47, Jackson. Commending Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

This measure would memorialize the President and Congress of the United States to uphold the intent and substance of the current provisions of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, to pursue a stronger enforcement policy for Title IX, and to support the continuation of the strong compliance standards that are in place for Title IX. The measure also would memorialize the President and Congress of the United States to encourage all Americans to participate in the national celebration, “Celebrating 30 Years of Title IX”.

WHEREAS, June 23, 2002, marks the celebration of the 30th anniversary of Title IX of the Education Amendments enacted by the United States Congress and signed into law in 1972, and upon this occasion, it is deserving of special public commendations; and

WHEREAS, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which is one of the most significant pieces of federal legislation passed in the 20th century, prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities at education institutions that receive federal funds, and it is an omnibus education law affecting all curricular and extracurricular offerings, from medicine, law, and science to drama, dance, and athletics; and

WHEREAS, Girls and women throughout the ages have participated in a variety of sports and physical activities in school, community, and club programs; and

WHEREAS, Prior to the passage of Title IX, there were few opportunities for girls and women to participate in high school or college athletics; and

WHEREAS, Participation in sports is acknowledged as a positive force in developing and promoting physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well-being, and it is well-established that participation in athletics builds self-esteem, communication skills, discipline, and

perseverance, all qualities that make a positive and significant difference in the quality of life and in the level of accomplishment; and

WHEREAS, Participation in girls youth and high school sports leagues has risen to a record level, and participation by female collegiate athletes now represents 41 percent of all varsity athletes; and

WHEREAS, Girls who participate in sports have the opportunity to develop strong interpersonal relationships while learning teamwork, goal-setting, and other achievement-oriented behaviors; and

WHEREAS, Participation in athletics strengthens family bonds between young women and their parents who may have participated in athletics themselves, and engaging in physical activities and sporting events as a family unit further enhances family bonds; and

WHEREAS, Teenage female athletes are less likely to use marijuana, cocaine, or other illicit drugs, less likely to be suicidal, less likely to smoke, and more likely to have positive body images than female nonathletes, and women student athletes graduate at a significantly higher rate than women students in general; and

WHEREAS, Teenage female athletes are 50 percent less likely to become pregnant as female nonathletes, less likely to have sex as teenagers than female nonathletes, and more likely to postpone their first sexual experience than female nonathletes; and

WHEREAS, Many female athletes have distinguished themselves as representatives of California and the nation in international competition and the Olympic Games, and during the 2000 Summer Olympics, women competed for the first time in the same number of team sports as men; and

WHEREAS, Professional female athletes now compete in leagues such as the Women's United Soccer Association, the Women's National Basketball Association, the Women's Tennis Association, the Ladies Professional Golf Association, Women's Professional Softball League, and the Women's Professional Football League, and the United States Professional Volleyball League will launch in 2002; and

WHEREAS, The increased visibility of female athletes provide people, young and old, female and male, with positive role models, and many women agree that seeing successful female athletes make them feel great pride as women; and

WHEREAS, Title IX continues to break down the gender barriers in educational institutions, giving women the opportunity to strive and achieve for excellence and realize the best within themselves; and

WHEREAS, Women of all ages should be encouraged to compete and contribute to sports at all levels of competition and to ensure opportunity for the next generation of female athletes and sports leaders as we enter the new millennium; now therefore, be it



Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California memorializes the President and Congress of the United States to do all of the following:

(1) Stand firm in their resolve to uphold the intent and substance of the current provision of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

(2) Pursue a strong enforcement policy for Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and strengthen the compliance and enforcement policies of the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights (OCR).

(3) Support the continuation of the strong compliance standards that are currently in place for Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

(4) Encourage all Americans to participate in the national celebration, “Celebrating 30 Years of Title IX”; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States and to all Members of Congress of the United States.

